

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-01 NEA-09 EB-07 /089 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6504

C O N F I D E N T I A L N A S S A U 4 0 7

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP PFOR

SUBJ: LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH BELGIAN AMBASSADOR  
VAN CAUWENBERGH

REF: STATE 51559

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. VAN CAUWENBERGH HAS HAD LONG EXPERIENCE OF SERVICE IN U.S. ACCORDINGLY, LUNCHEON CONVERSATION, WHILE PERHAPS NOT PROVIDING NEW INSIGHTS, COVERED A WIDE ENOUGH RANGE OF ISSUES AS TO SUGGEST POSSIBLE UTILITY TO DEPARTMENT:

A) DETENTE. SEES NO CHANGE IN BASIC SOVIET OBJECTIVES AS CONTRASTED TO TACTICS. QUESTIONS ABILITY OF WEST TO COPE WITH THESE TACTICS, BUT SEES NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO PURSUANCE OF DETENTE.

B) ROLE OF CONGRESS AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS. MUCH DISTRESSED BY INSERTION OF CONGRESS INTO FOREIGN POLICY MAKING. DOES NOT BELIEVE CONGRESS CAPABLE OF THIS ROLE AND CAN THUS ONLY BE A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE. TURKISH RESTRICTION, TRADE BILL RESTRICTIONS, ETC., CITED AS EXAMPLES. NOT MUCH MORE OPTIMISTIC RE ROLE OF WEST EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS WHICH HE SEES AS INCREASINGLY "KNOW-NOTHING" IN CHARACTER RE FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH INCREASING PREOCCUPATION WITH SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS.

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C) US SOCIETY. SADDENED BY ITS "EUROPEANIZATION". THE "CAN-DO" ATTITUDE OF 30 YEARS AGO HAS DISAPPEARED INTO MORASS OF DETAILS AND INEFFICIENCIES.

D) EUROPEAN RADICALISM. WONDERS WHETHER US IS AWARE THAT THE RADICAL LEFT IN EUROPE IS NOW WELL TO THE LEFT OF THE COMMUNISTS. BASICALLY ANARCHIST IN MOTIVATION. BELIEVES THAT WESTERN EUROPE MAY BE CLOSE TO ADOPTING A PLATFORM OF EXTREMISM ESPECIALLY AS ECONOMIES BEGIN TO BREAK DOWN. SEES ONLY THE LACK OF A DEMAGOGIC FIGURE. BELIEVES THAT THE SAME COULD HAPPEN IN THE US.

E) EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. BELIEVES SUCH INTEGRATION MUST TAKE PLACE WITHIN ATLANTIC COMMUNITY CONCEPT OR EUROPE IS LOST. WHILE SEES SOME MODERATION IN FRENCH RHETORIC FROM DE GAULLE TO D'ESTAING, BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT FRENCH POLICY OR DOMINATING A SEPARATIST EUROPE HAS FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED.

F) REPLACEMENT OF F-4S. MAINTAINS THAT THE BIG ISSUE IS NOT WHETHER US OR FRENCH AIRCRAFT WILL BE CHOSEN, BUT RATHER WHETHER NATO COUNTRIES WILL REPLACE AIRCRAFT AT ALL. SEES GROWING SENTIMENT FOR RIDING OUT THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS WITHOUT A REPLACEMENT EVEN THOUGH THIS MAKES NO MILITARY SENSE. BELIEVES EARLIEST POSSIBLE DECISION ESSENTIAL TO STEM FLOW TOWARD NIHILISM.

G) MIDDLE EAST. NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE. BELIEVES UPROAR OVER SECRETARY'S COMMENTS RE INTERVENTION TOTALLY MISS THE EMPHASIS SECRETARY PLACED ON ULTIMATE LAST RE COURSE. BELIEVES IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES EUROPEANS WOULD INEVITABLY FAVOR INTERVENTION BEFORE US GIVEN THEIR ALMOST ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL.

2. AMBASSADOR, WHO WILL BE PAYING FURTHER CALL ON ME THIS WEEK, RETURNS TO WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY.

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## Message Attributes

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